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Comrade Stalin not only advanced the idea of organizing the training of working forces, but he also defined the means and methods by which this idea could be realized. On the instruction of Comrade Stalin, all the necessary conditions for the successful work of the schools and FZO (Factory-Plant Training) labor reserves were provided. The state assumes full responsibility for the material security of the students. The city and village youth study in the educational institutions of the labor reserves. They study in their chosen field, obtain food, clothing, shoes, dormitories, textbooks, etc.

The industrial and railroad schools, with a 2-year term of study, train skilled workers. The FZO schools, with a 6-month study term, train workers for many trades. The entire educational training process is directed toward increasing the number of experts in the various fields, conscious leaders who can master the necessary knowledge and experience, and who are aware of their duty to the Fatherland.

The state labor reserves played an important role in the accomplishment of the most vital tasks in the national economy during the grim years of World War II. Hundreds of thousands of students and graduates of institutions and schools rendered substantial help to the Soviet army and industries during the war years. In the process of industrial training in their workshops, they made 6 million mines, 26 million pieces of armament, 3,000 metal-cutting tools, and hundreds of thousands of various tools worth in all over 5 billion rubles. In industrial establishments, the former graduates of schools and institutes built thousands of tanks, planes, guns, and gun carriages.

The Soviet government places a high value on the labor feats of the students of the labor reserves. Many of them have been awarded medals and orders of the Soviet Union.

However, the members of the labor reserve helped the Fatherland not only by their labor feats. Many of them covered themselves with glory in the front lines during World War II. Twenty-four students of schools and institutes were awarded the title of Hero of the Soviet Union.

The role and importance of the labor reserves steadily increased in the postwar Stalin Five-Year Plan. The rapidly expanding industries and construction works require a constant influx of well-trained young workers for the mills and factories, ore and coal mines, new construction, and transport. Each year, the FZO schools and institutes graduate miners, builders, metallurgists, railway workers, petroleum workers, and electricians into the ranks of the working class.

In 1946, in the first year of the postwar Five-Year Plan, the labor reserves gave 376,000 workers to industry, construction, and transport; in 1947, the total was 799,000. In the third, decisive year of the Five-Year Plan, the educational institutions of the labor reserves gave an army of a million industrial workers to the factories, mines, and construction works.

The entire system of training replacements in the working class was set up in conformity with the interests of the development of a socialist economy. The labor reserves guarantee workers for the key branches of industry. Coal is at the base of the development of the entire national economy. The struggle for coal is the struggle for the fulfillment of the Five-Year Plan ahead of schedule. And the labor reserves give the distinguished ranks of Soviet miners the needed replacements. The schools and institutes of the FZO graduated 11 times as many hewers, timbermen, sinkers, loaders, and electricians in 1948 as in 1946.

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FZO schools are now graduating four times as many blacksmiths, fitters, millwrights, carpenters, armature winders, and painters as they did in 1946.

The young Soviet worker must know how to perform his duties in practice. He must also know the construction of modern enterprises, the principles of conducting a technological process, and the principles of the organization of labor and construction. Therefore, the study of production alternates: a day of theory and a day of practice. The program of theoretical study includes special technology, physical science, and drawing. A course in general instruction discipline is also offered.

Industrial education in the institutes is set up on the basis of more complicated study programs. The students study individual operations and working methods in their workshops. After familiarizing themselves with several separate operations, they apply them in practice by making a tool or a piece of equipment. Gradually, they complete the entire group of necessary operations, while constantly improving in their work.

In the second year of study, in addition to their work in the shops, the students extend their knowledge, experience, and practice of working in the establishments themselves, or on the railroads or in other enterprises. Industrial apprenticeship in the foremost enterprises of the country, the youths acquaint themselves with the newest techniques, styles, and methods of work of the best Stakhanovites, and master the methods of highly industrialized labor.

In the better schools and institutes, more and more attention is given to a knowledge of labor methods of the industrial inventors, to the technical innovations, and to the improvement, by new technology, of tools and equipment. "Stakhanovite Tuesdays" are conducted regularly in FZO Construction School No 41 in Moscow. On these days, the best Stakhanovites and lecturers of the capital come to the school and hold conference with the students about the various professions. The conferences are accompanied by film demonstrations and special displays.

After the "Tuesdays," the students go out on projects where they observe and put into practice the work of these experts.

In the FZO Mining School No 73 in Molotov Oblast, a group of lagging students was assigned to the distinguished miner, Comrade Podzharov, Laureate of the Stalin Prize, for the study of Stakhanovite methods of work. The students were attracted by the clean, expert work of Podzharov, and they quickly learned the advanced methods of work, and began to exceed the quotas of the adult workers by two and three times.

With the aim of developing in the youth a love for technical work, the educational institutions of the labor reserves arrange meetings with the distinguished people of science and engineering, inventors, designers, etc. Clubs of young technicians are formed in some schools in which the youths can extend their technical knowledge. Such collectives, as for example the FZO schools of Ivanovo, participate in regional Stakhanov lectures.

At an exhibition in January 1948 during the All-Union inspection of the work of the Moscow labor reserves, many exhibits from all parts of the Soviet Union were displayed.

The most diverse objects were on display: radio sets, machine tools, children's bicycles, working models of mines, a model of a steam engine, vices, dies, tools, sculptures, porcelain china, Kasli statuettes carved in metal or made of copper, Sverdlovsk boxes, vases, and coffers made of natural-colored semiprecious stones, samples of cloth, furniture, and many other examples of the creative work of labor reserve students.

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In FZO Mining School No 263 in Stalin Oblast, students Kurchav and Andrianov were designated coal experts, with a premium of 500 rubles per month for excellent work. Students of FZO School No 78, also in Stalin Oblast, sinkers Kramarenko, Il'chenko, and Zhilinsky, placed in a Stakhanovite unit in honor of Miner's Day, filled their quota by 2,135 percent.

All the necessary conditions for the thorough cultural growth of future workers are created in the FZO institutes and schools. The students have at their disposal 11 cultural homes, 860 clubs, 3,300 Red Corners, 4,000 libraries, their own orchestras, and motion-picture apparatus. About 500,000 young men and women study in the work clubs.

The future workers learn to enjoy books in the libraries of the institutes and schools, which contain over 7 million books. They are furnished stadiums, swimming pools, skating rinks, sports clubs, gymnasiums, and sports grounds. The Labor Reserves Athletic Association unites in its ranks over half a million people. Among them are many champions and record-breakers of the Soviet Union.

The Ministry of Labor Reserves has its own health resorts and rest homes. In the summer of 1948, 118,000 young people were sent to health resorts, sanitariums, rest homes, and summer camps.

Twelve billion rubles were assigned by the State for the labor reserves in 1940-1945. Forty billion rubles are being spent in the current Five-Year Plan. The many student dormitories remind one of good, well-managed hotels.

The FZO system was 8 years old on 2 October 1948. During that time, the educational institutions had graduated over 4.5 million young skilled workers.

In many enterprises, the students of the labor reserves comprise more than half of the entire staff of workers. Many have become commanders of industry, leading Stakhanovites, and talented inventors.

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